

Regarding the Amendments

The amendments to Claim 7 are merely editorial in nature (i) reflecting in lines 3 and 6 the Examiner's Amendments made with the Notice of Allowance issued 28 November 2006 in the parent application and (ii) providing the appropriate space between "and" and "(c)" in line 6.

New Claims 17 through 24 are clearly based on the claims or specific teachings of invention embodiments in the present application as noted below.

Claim 17 - originally filed Claim 2.

Claim 18 - the application at page 4, line 19 teaching the use of stainless steel.

Claim 19 - the application at page 5, lines 28 and 29 teaching surface sheet thicknesses in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 6.0 mm.

Claim 20 - the application at page 5, line 30 teaching surface sheet thicknesses of less than 2.0 mm.

Claim 21 - the application at page 4 line 21 teaching coated metals.

Claim 22 - the application at page 4, line 19 teaching stainless steel and at page for line 21 teaching coatings.

Claim 23 - the application at page 5, line 30 teaching sheet thicknesses of less than 2.0 mm.

Claim 24 -originally filed Claim 4.

Therefore, it is clear that these amendments add no new matter.

Regarding the Status of the Claims

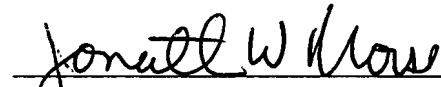
Claims 7 through 11 stand allowed in the last office action.

Rejected claims 12 through 14 are canceled.

It is believed that Claims 15 and 16, although rejected in the last office action, were not recognized to be dependent from allowed Claim 7 and should have been similarly allowed. In any case, it is believed that Claims 15 and 16, together with new claims 17 through 24, having all the limitations of allowed Claim 7, are also similarly allowable.

Therefore, it is believed that the present claims are currently in condition for allowance and their prompt allowance is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan W. Morse
Registration No. 30,200
Phone: 989-636-8298

P. O. Box 1967
Midland, MI 48641-1967